(c) whether it is also a fact that in view of the objective of doubling India's trade share in the global market,in terms of percentage, by 2004, the Ministry has set up an ambitious target of achieving 16 percent export target; and

(d) if so, the details of (a), (b) and (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held with all the Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Board and other bodies in December, 2004.In the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 31st August, 2004 it was mentioned that the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme will continue to be operative until it is replaced by a new scheme which will be drawn up in consultation with exporters. Accordingly, Government has initiated a wide spread consultation process with the exporters and other related organizations and experts for formulating a new Scheme.

(c) and (d) The Government had set a target of US $ 74 billion for 2004-05 (16% growth over the previous year) which is likely to be over-achieved with exports crossing the US $ 60 billion mark during the first ten months of the current financial year itself. Export targets have also been set for the next four years with the objective of reaching US$150 billion worth of exports by 2008-09 so as to double India's share of trade in the world market.

Agreement to promote Indo-Nepal Economic and Trade Cooperation

780. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister to New Delhi, an agreement to promote Indo-Nepal Economic and Trade Cooperation was reached;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister of Nepal paid an official visit to India from September 8-12, 2004. A wide range of issues of mutual interest, including trade and economic cooperation were discussed during the visit. The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal expressed satisfaction at the

progress on the implementation of various bilateral economic and development cooperation projects, and reiterated their desire to further deepen and diversify such cooperation.

An Agreement was signed between Indian Oil Corporation and Nepal Oil Corporation for a joint venture regarding construction of an oil pipeline between Raxaul (India) and Amlekhgunj (Nepal).

The other Agreements concluded during the visit were Agreement between Bureau of Indian Standards and Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology, as first step towards mutual recognition of certification systems, Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture and Sports and memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Weather Forecasting.

Enactment of Law regarding crimes in SEZs

†781. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to enact a special law regarding crimes committed in Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether special courts would be constituted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposal to set up and International Trade Promotion Centre at Bangalore

782. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to establish an International Trade Promotion Centre at Bangalore, similar to Pragati Maidan of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the shares of the State Government in the project;

(c) whether other cities has also been planned for similar project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.